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NRO review(s) completed.

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**NRP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Minutes of Meeting Held September 12, 1967  
Office of Deputy Secretary of Defense  
Room 3E 928, The Pentagon  
2:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

**Members Present**

Mr. Paul H. Nitze	Deputy Secretary of Defense
Vice Adm. Rufus Taylor	Acting for the Director of Central Intelligence
Dr. Donald F. Hornig	Special Assistant to the President for Science and Technology

**Others Present**

Dr. Alexander H. Flax	Director, National Reconnaissance Office, Ex Officio
Mr. James Q. Reber	Secretary, NRP Executive Committee Ex Officio

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Dr. John S. Foster, Jr.

DDR&E

CIA

CIA

PSAC Staff

Assistant Director, BOB

BOB

NRO Comptroller

Director, NRO Staff

NRO Staff

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Mr. Carl E. Duckett

Dr. Donald Steininger

Mr. Fred S. Hoffman

Mr. C. William Fischer

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Brig. Gen. Russell A. Berg

**OX CART Phase Out**

Admiral Taylor stated that the DCI had requested him to inform the Executive Committee on the OXCART phase out and the withdrawal of the BLACK SHIELD operation. He advised that, under plans recently developed by CIA and SAC, the first of the three aircraft now at Kadena would return to the States about November 8 with the rest returning by mid-November and that there would ensue a 10- to 14-day hiatus in coverage from Kadena before SAC took

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over on December 1. He pointed out that experienced contractor personnel would be reassigned to other activities beyond December 1 and that spare parts would not be available after November 15 except from off-the-shelf items, by cannibalizing OXCART aircraft scheduled for storage at Palmdale, or from 90-day packages assigned to accompany the stored planes. He emphasized that October 1 was the deadline for changing actions now in train for phase out of BLACK SHIELD. Dr. Hornig emphasized the importance of making sure that the SR-71 was operationally ready before the point of no return had been reached in the phase out of the OXCART. In response to his desire for a comparison of the OXCART and SR-71, Dr. Flax said he would provide a paper, modified if required, which was used a year ago when the decision was made to phase out the OXCART.

To aid the ExCom in reviewing the SR-71 readiness by October 1, it was agreed that a week prior to October 1 the DNRO would provide to the Executive Committee a summary of the status of Category 3 testing for the SR-71 and the likelihood of its being operationally ready on December 1. It was recognized that when the SR-71 took over from the OXCART responsibility for the operation passed from the DNRO to the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

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The Executive Committee approved the proposal as outlined in the foregoing paragraph.

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Mr. Hoffman of the Bureau of the Budget suggested that concurrent with the actions which the ExCom was initiating a study be undertaken which would make an appraisal of what would be the value to the user of the acquisition of information early rather than later; what would this system add

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in the short term that would be of value; and what would be the effect of that information on policy decisions such as force structures. Secretary Nitze referred to his review of earlier studies that had been made with regard to both the need for the data and the means of its collection and wondered whether the study Mr. Hoffman had in mind would significantly add to that. Admiral Taylor suggested that a USIB committee had earlier accomplished this task and he proposed to request that that study be updated. This was agreed. Mr. Hoffman agreed to circulate to the members the draft terms of reference which his office had prepared for such a study and which the DCI might include in the charge to the USIB subcommittee.

James Q. Reber  
Secretary  
NRP Executive Committee

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